(7) THE MADRAS HACKNEY CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1949 (L.A. BILL NO. 33 OF 1949).

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—

'*that the Madras Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill* [a], *1949 (L.A. Bill No. 33 of 1949), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once*'.

When the Madras Hackney Carriage Act was passed originally in 1911, certain contingencies were not contemplated. 'Hackney carriage' has been defined in that Act as 'any wheeled vehicle drawn or pushed by a man or horse, bullock or other animal'. It was not anticipated then that cycle-rickshaws would one day be introduced. Sir, cycle-rickshaws have come to stay in cities like Madras and we have now 13 of them in the City of Madras alone. At present there is some difficulty in registering these rickshaws under the Madras Hackney Carriage Act, 1911, as an interesting point was raised whether the definition 'push' in the Act could include 'propelling'. It is in order to get over this small technical difficulty that this amendment has been suggested which adds a few more definitions. Legal pandits have told us that by adding the words like 'propelling', and expressions like 'including a cycle-rickshaw', the purpose can be achieved, namely to bring the cycle-rickshaws within the purview of the Act for purposes of registration."

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The motion moved—

'that the Madras Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 33 of 1949), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once'."

* SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, I take this opportunity to suggest to the Government to introduce in Madras what are known as 'trishaws' which are now largely in use in all countries in the Far East, for example, Singapore, Hongkong, Batavia and even Japan. I have experience of these trishaws and they are a very convenient form of transport. They can be easily pedalled and persons can be seated on the side of the person who propels. It causes no hardship to anybody. After all, it is not very much 3.30 p.m. different from the ordinary tricycle rickshaws which have now come to Madras. The advantage in the trishaws which have become so popular in the Far East is that the man who propels sits by the passenger's side. Another advantage is that it is very easy for the man to drive the machine. What has become common in countries like Japan, Malaya, Burma and Hongkong, I am sure, Sir, will be found very convenient and ideal for the conditions prevailing in Madras also. I hope, Sir, that Government will try to get one or two of these for the time being and if found satisfactory introduce them here, in this country."

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[a] Printed as Appendix XI on page 704 infra.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I have not had the privilege of seeing these carriages. If I get an opportunity I shall go and see them for myself. The Government have not, like the motor transport, taken up the question of transport by other means and therefore, I am unable to accept the suggestion of the hon. Member. If any enterprising concern could purchase these trishaws we will certainly register them and give them a trial and see what the chances are."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" And amend the Act if necessary."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" I wish to add a word. I found in Mandalay these cycle rickshaws immensely popular. May I say that ladies prefer cycle-rickshaw so that the man may go before them instead of his going behind or by the side."

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Motion moved—

'that the Madras Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 33 of 1949), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once'."

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir—

'*that the Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 33 of 1949), be passed into law*'.

I do not know how far Mrs. Hensman is correct that ladies would not like to have men before or by the side."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Probably the hon. Member was referring to motor-rickshaws where the man propelling the vehicle sits behind and the ladies sit in front. Which of the rickshaws would be preferred by the ladies . . ."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not know whether the ladies would like to have before, side or behind . . ."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Wherever a lady sits, she enjoys . ."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I have not got the experience of the Leader of the Opposition. I must take the experience and authority of only the hon. Member Mrs. Hensman on the subject. It would be an interesting matter for the Woman's Association to give us an idea as to which would be the better position, before, by the side or behind."

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Motion moved—

'that the Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1949, be passed into law'."

The motion was carried and the Bill was passed into law.